ment of India however, have since decided not to participate in the July meeting.

The Government of India is of the view that any conference in the vital field of marine affairs relating to the Indian Oceon has to be carefully prepared in terms of the objectives which have to be defined through an extensive process of consultations, particularly of all the littoral States of the region. It would not be possible for a Conference to be successful without the development of consensus, based on such consultations. An overwhelming percentage of marine and living resources of interest to littoral States, which could be exploited within the technologies available to these countries, are located in areas within national jurisdictions. At the moment, the main priority has necessarily to be on efforts at achieving the convening of the Conference on the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. This Conference is of prime importance. Nothing should be done which could result in a setback to this main objective.

Construction of Hotel at Madras Airport

361. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply to unstarred question 1702 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th May, 1985 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that ITDC/the Hotel Corporation of India/the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation or any private agencies have expressed a wish to construct a hotel at Madras airport;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey or study was conducted in the past on the feasibility of a hotel project at Madras airport;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines have a proposal to construct a Flight Kitchen-*cum*-Hotel at Madras Airport with Technical and Management Consultancy provided by the I.T.D.C.

Approval has been granted by the Department of Tourism to the construction of a 160 room, 5-star hotel project near Madras airport. The promoters. M/s. Pleasant Hotels Limited, are collaborating with Ramada Hotel Chain, U K. in this project.

(c) to (e) Indian Airlines and ITDC jointly carried out a sample survey of air passengers arriving at Madras Airport to determine the requirement of hotel accommodation at Madras. The Survey has revealed shortage of 5-star hotel accommodation of over 200 rooms over and above the existing 5-star hotels.

Talks between the Prime Minister of India and Sri Lankan President on Tamil Issue

362. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

SHRI SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA:

SHRI ALADL ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the outcome of the talks held between him and the President of Sri Lanka during the latter's visit;

(b) the details of the draft that has been prepared subsequently after talks with the special envoy of the President of Sri Lanka; and

(c) the extent to which these steps have helped to solve the Sri Lankan Tamil ethnic problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) The Sri Lanka President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene paid a visit to New Delhi from the 1st to 3rd June, 1985 at the invitation of the Prime Minister. Both sides agreed that immediate steps needed to be taken to defuse the ethnic situation and create a proper climate for progress towards a political settlement acceptable to all concerned. It was also agreed that all forms of violence should abate and finally cease and every effort would be made for restoration of normalcy in the Northern and Eastern Provinces, which would be conducive to the return of Sri Lanka refugees from India to Sri Lanka.

(b) Following the Summit meeting, discussions were held on June 15 and 16 between a team of Sri Lankan legal experts led by Mr. H. W. Jayewardene (brother of the Sri Lankan President) and the Attorney-General of India. During these discussions various Constitutional and legal aspects of the Sri Lanka Constitution were examined. The discussions were exploratory in nature, and were useful.

(c) These steps have helped in improving the climate for progress towards a political solution. On June 18 the Sri Lanka Government announced a cessation of hostilities between security forces and the Tamil militants. Later on July 8 talks were begun in Thimphu between a Sri Lanka Government delegation on the one hand and representatives of the TULF and Tamil militants organizations on the other.

Sarkaria Commission

363. SHRI L. GANESAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) when the Sarkaria Commission was constituted;

(b) the money spent so far for meeting the expenses of the Commission;

(c) what had been the attitude of each State Government towards the Commission; and

(d) by when the Commission is expected to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b) The Commission was set up on June 9, 1983 and the expenditure incurred on the Commission upto June, 30, 1985 has been Rs. 55.92 lakhs.

(c) The attitude of the State Governments has by and large been positive and helpful.

(d) The term of the Commission has been extended upto June 30, 1986 by which date it expects to submit its report.

Restriction on Foreign Tourists visiting Sikkim

364. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

SHRI S. W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any restrictions on foreign tourists visiting Sikkim, if so, the details thereof;

(b) what are the reasons for these restrictions; and

(c) how many people have applied for the permission and actually permitted during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b) Sikkim is a